
From: sams-bounces@listserv.doe.state.in.us [mailto:sams-bounces@listserv.doe.state.in.us] **On Behalf Of** Jeff Zaring
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 9:58 AM
To: sams@listserv.doe.state.in.us
Subject: [SAMS] Preliminary AYP and Corporation/School Improvement StatusDeterminations

This message is being sent to superintendents via SAMS.

The Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Corporation/School Improvement status determinations under *The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, based upon the Fall 2005 ISTEP+ administration, have been made.

The information is under embargo until the anticipated public release on or about **April 18, 2006**.

Please check your corporation's information at this URL:

<https://mustang.doe.state.in.us/AP/loginayp.cfm>

You will need your corporation number and PIN to login.

Reminder: The targets (Annual Measurable Objectives) for English/language arts and mathematics were raised, as required by law, for these AYP calculations. The current targets are 65.7% passing for English/language arts and 64.3 % passing for mathematics.

Explanation of School Corporation Improvement Determination

For purposes of Title I school corporation improvement, Indiana uses grade spans [elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), and high school (9-12)] at the corporation level for achievement, participation rate, and the secondary indicator (attendance rate). A corporation shall be in corporation improvement when all grade spans within a group fail to meet standards for two consecutive years in the same subject. A corporation having school corporation improvement status shall be removed from that status when any grade span group meets the standards for two consecutive years in that subject.

An example of the school corporation improvement determination process appears below.

Data Review and Appeal

Federal rules require that the Department provide school corporations and schools with an opportunity to review the data, including academic assessment data, on which the proposed identification for school improvement is based.

Federal rules also provide that an LEA or school may appeal the Department's determination that the school has not made AYP for two or more consecutive years. Federal guidelines are clear that the determination of school progress is

based on the application of formulas defined and approved in the state's accountability system. Therefore, with rare exceptions, only statistical errors in the underlying data provide cause for a reconsideration of the school's status. Be aware that pending a decision on an appeal, any schools in school improvement status must be prepared to offer the appropriate services (choice, supplemental services, etc.) as outlined under NCLB.

Summary information on the AYP and Safe Harbor calculations for any group can be viewed by clicking on the group "name." Detailed information on groups can only be viewed by accessing the "AYP Student List 2005-06" on the secure STN Application Center, <https://ac.doe.state.in.us/AppCenter/Main.aspx>

The appeal process timeline will begin **today, Friday, March 3, 2006**, and end **Monday, March 20, 2006**. Appeals must be received no later than **Monday, March 20, 2006**. If you choose to appeal, please get the appeal and accompanying documentation to us as quickly as possible.

Appeals should be based on one of the following specific criteria:

- (1) ISTEP+ data for the school or corporation are correct and complete, but do not correctly portray the performance of the school or school corporation
- (2) Other data (participation rate, attendance rate, graduation rate) are correct and complete, but do not correctly portray the performance of the school or school corporation.
- (3) ISTEP+ data are correct, but incomplete, and provide an incomplete picture of the school or school corporation because students did not complete testing due to natural or manmade occurrence(s) that could not have been anticipated, demographics have changed significantly, or significant school organization changes have been made.

The following, or similar, grounds are insufficient to sustain an appeal:

- 1) Disagreement with the requirements of the law, including the fact that a single goal for each subject area applies to each identified student group and that failure to demonstrate AYP may be attributable to only one student group.
- 2) Alleged inconsistency between the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- 3) Participation by Special Education students in the alternate assessment rather than ISTEP+ or vice versa.
- 4) Demonstrated improvement (based on ISTEP+ or norm-referenced tests) that was not sufficient to qualify for the safe harbor provision.
- 5) Inclusion of students who had poor attendance in AYP determinations.

A request for an appeal must be signed by the superintendent and mailed to AYP, Center for School Assessment, Research, and Information Technology, Room 229, State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798. Data files and

grounds for appeal should be sent via e-mail to ayp@doe.state.in.us no later than Monday, March 20, 2006 .

LEA Improvement Plan

An important note about Title I School Corporation/LEA Improvement Status and the resulting requirement to have an LEA Improvement Plan: NCLB requires that a Corporation/LEA in Improvement set aside 10 percent of the corporation's Title I allocation to provide technical assistance and professional development opportunities that address the educational needs of identified student groups. Since Corporation/LEA Improvement Status is based on student academic performance in all schools, the reserved funds may be used to address the performance of identified student groups in both Title I and non-Title I schools, or they be targeted to address the performance of identified student groups in Title I schools.

The LEA Improvement Plan submitted to the Indiana Department of Education, shall, at a minimum:

- 1) Address the fundamental teaching and learning needs of schools in the district, especially the academic problem of low-achieving students;
- 2) Define specific measurable achievement goals and targets for each of the student subgroups whose disaggregated results are included in Indiana's calculation of AYP;
- 3) Incorporate strategies grounded in scientifically based research that will strengthen instruction in core academic subjects;
- 4) Include, as appropriate, student learning activities before school, after school, during the summer, and any extension of the school year;
- 5) Provide for high-quality professional development for instructional staff that focuses primarily on improved instruction;
- 6) Include strategies to promote effective parental involvement;
- 7) Include determinations of why the previous plan (if applicable) did not bring about increased student academic achievement, and
- 8) Specify the fiscal responsibilities of the corporation in reserving and expending not less than 10 percent of its Title I, Part A funds for professional development. These funds should be targeted for focused, yearlong professional development to improve instructional strategies for staff.

The plans should be sent to Title I, Room 229, State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798 by **July 20, 2006**.

See: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/08aug20031600/edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2003/julqtr/pdf/34cfr200.52.pdf for more information.

School corporations currently in improvement status must submit an updated plan.

Example of School Corporation Improvement Determination Process

The simplified example below illustrates the process for determining if a Title I school corporation will enter the school corporation improvement process. In the example, the corporation has three student groups, including the overall group. The overall group and Group 1 met the annual goal both in English and math at all three grade

spans. Group 2 met the English goal at the elementary and high school levels but did not meet the English goal at the middle level. Group 2 met the math goal at the middle level but did not meet the math goal at either the elementary or high school levels. Since Group 2 students met the annual goal in at least one grade span in English and at least one grade span in math, this does not constitute a year of failing to meet standards for determining corporation improvement. The actual determinations are more complicated because the secondary indicator and participation rate are included and because safe harbor calculations will be used, if necessary, to determine if the corporation met achievement goals, but the process itself remains the same.

Student Group and Grade Span

English

Math

Overall, Elementary

Y

Y

Overall, Middle School

Y

Y

Overall, High School

Y

Y

Group 1, Elementary

Y

Y

Group 1, Middle School

Y

Y

Group 1, High School

Y

Y

Group 2, Elementary

Y

N

Group 2, Middle School

N

Y

Group 2, High School

Y

N

Category Placement Under Public Law 221

We anticipate the initial category placement for corporations and schools will be sent to you on an embargoed basis on or about April 3, 2006. Appeals of category placement are due no later than Tuesday, April 18, 2006. P.L.221 category placements will be made by the State Board on Thursday, May 4, 2006.

If you have questions about your AYP status please e-mail ayp@doe.state.in.us. If you have questions about your corporation or school improvement status, please contact your Title I consultant at 317-232-0540.